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**South Carolina**  
*Smiling Faces. Beautiful Places.®*

Please visit the South Carolina Welcome Centers  
for traveler information



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*A true conservationist is a person who  
knows that the world is not given by his  
fathers but borrowed from his children.*  
— Audubon



#### **Blue Heron Facts:**

*In 1996, two mitigated wetlands  
were constructed at the Nature  
Center to enhance water quality of  
the stormwater runoff from the Town  
of Ridgeland and the businesses at  
Exit 21 on I-95. Wetlands play an  
important role in naturally cleaning  
water, moderating flooding, and  
providing habitat for fish and wildlife.*

*A wide variety of birds, butterflies,  
and wildlife visit the Nature Center  
year-round. The trail around the  
pond and through the forested  
wetlands provides opportunities for  
nature photography.*

*The Nature Center is an urban haven  
for birds, animals, and people. It  
provides a unique educational tool  
and recreation opportunity.*

## **Be a part OF BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER**

Located on 10 acres of green space at Exit 21 on I-95 in Ridgeland, the Blue Heron Nature Center offers you a chance to see blue herons, osprey, alligators, and turtles in their natural setting. Come and enjoy the songs of Carolina wrens and cardinals or the chorus of tree frogs.

Operated by the Jasper Conservation District, a non-profit organization, the Blue Heron Nature Center is committed to educating Jasper County's children, landowners, and residents about the importance of our natural resources. In 1996, the Jasper Conservation District, Jasper County, and the Town of Ridgeland began exploring the possibilities of using this unique area for environmental education and community enhancement. By 1997, the District and Town of Ridgeland were successful in securing permanent easements on 10 acres and in 1999 the District purchased  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of adjacent property and built 4,200 sq. ft. teaching/nature center. The District believes an awareness of the inter-relationship between man and the environment is necessary for us all to become better caretakers of our natural resources.

## Education

The Nature Center's education programs include K-12 environmental science classes focusing on native habitats and wildlife, feathers & furs, field ecology, and litter and recycling education. We also offer teacher workshops such as Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow, Ag in the Classroom, Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, and Project WET. All workshops are contingent on interest.



## Visit the Center



Visitors to the Blue Heron Nature Center can enjoy the boardwalk and trail year-round free of charge. The nature center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm or during special events on weekends or after hours.

## Public Outreach

The District sponsors events such as the Annual Fish Pond Clinic, youth eco-camps, tours, and open houses. We also allow other organizations to conduct workshops, training sessions, and meetings in our classroom. The Board of Commissioners must approve all outside use of the Nature Center.



The Town of Ridgeland also sponsors the Festival of Lights at the Blue Heron Nature Center during the Christmas season. The Festival begins the Saturday after Thanksgiving and continues until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December from 6:00 pm-10:00pm.



### DIRECTIONS

From I-95 take exit 21 and go west on S.R. 336 toward Ridgeland. Turn right on East Wilson Street and continue onto the dirt and gravel road. The Nature Center is on the left.

## How To Contribute

Visitors to the Blue Heron Nature Center can relax and enjoy the boardwalks, trails and nature center. In this beautiful and scenic area just minutes from I-95, visitors discover a wonderful habitat for wildlife and a spectacular laboratory for learning. After visiting, many wonder how they can get involved and become a Nature Center supporter.

The Jasper Conservation District is a non-profit organization and a sub-unit of state government that is governed by 5 commissioners who receive no compensation for their services.

All contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. With your support, we will be able to continue to offer innovative, inspiring programs for young and old in support of our mission to promote environmental stewardship through education, public outreach and land conservation.



## Membership Application

Our generous members have committed themselves to help us bring the Nature Center's vision to fruition. Membership will ensure that you are an important part of the SC Lowcountry's most celebrated environmental outreach and educational programs. We hope we can count on your support!

[ ] \$50-99 Fish Funder

[ ] \$50 Swamp Supporter

[ ] \$100 + Buck Backer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*All members will receive annual reports and invitations to member only events.

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Make checks payable to the Jasper Conservation District (JCD).

*Clip and mail to:*

JCD  
321 Bailey Lane  
Ridgeland, SC 29936